

A Note From Our Executive Director



What an incredible 4 months it's been! Since taking over as Executive Director in August, I've learned and experienced so many new things. I've watched children who were nervous and tentative overcome their apprehension and enjoy the interaction with horses. I've seen participants learn new skills and become more independent. And I am also extremely delighted to share that our programming is back to 100% of pre-pandemic levels. This would not have been possible if it were not for the incredible support from the community and local foundations as well as our many individual donors.

We would like to thank the following corporations and foundations for their recent support!

- Miami Foundation/Miami-Dade Non-Profit Support Grants
- The Batchelor Foundation
- Bolloré Logistics
- Broward Community Foundation - James K. Oppenheimer Fund
- Coral Gables Community Foundation
- John T. MacDonald Foundation

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the more than 180 individual donors who supported us on Give Miami Day. The support was amazing and we well exceeded our goal to raise \$50,000. We also took a big step in the campaign to raise funds to name our covered arena in honor and in memory of our friend and board member, Marilyn Fizer March. Thanks again to the many individuals who have contributed to this cause so far.

With the above support and long-term commitment of the incredible staff and Board of Directors, we are well poised to grow our impact and service to the community. We added new part-time staff and contractors, and new members to the board including Dr. Erin Bauer DVM, former Executive Director, and Brian Larson, CFO of Catalyst Miami. We are very much looking forward to the coming year!

In the meantime, my best wishes to all for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Samuel Diller, Executive Director

Recovering From the Spring Shut Down

For all of us the world changed in early 2020. In March we shut down our program. We slowly started opening up in May and even held a smaller version of our summer camp. As summer drew to a close we were ready to provide programming at our previous capacity.

This fall we welcomed back the morning school programs, and once again over 60 riders/week experienced the power of the horse.

Be Unique Academy

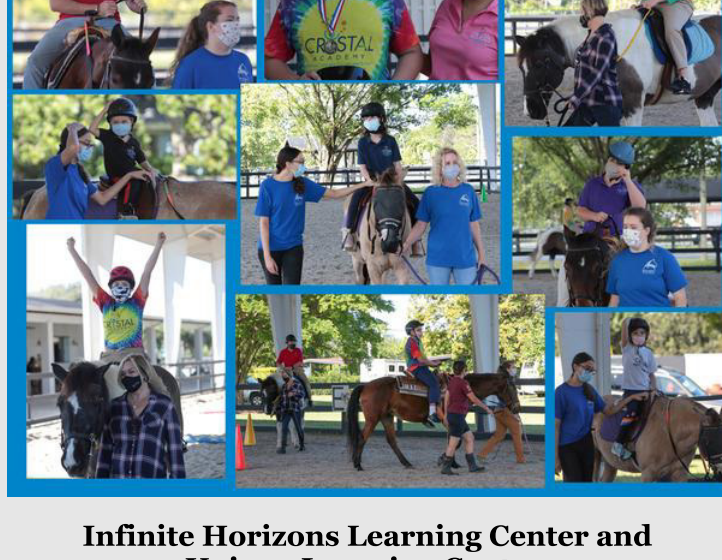
Thanks to a generous grant from the **John T. MacDonald Foundation**, Be Unique Academy was back at the barn starting in August. 10 students participated in a 10-week program that included horseback riding and horsemanship skills.



Crystal Academy of Coral Gables

In September, Crystal Academy started a 12-week program with 10 students. This programming was made possible through a grant from the **Coral Gables Community Foundation** and an anonymous donor. The students learned new skills, while simultaneously improving their self confidence, coordination and independence.

The City of Coral Gables also developed an amazing video highlighting the impact of participating in our program. [Click here](#) to watch the video. Thank you Rita Verreos for reporting for Coral Gables Television.



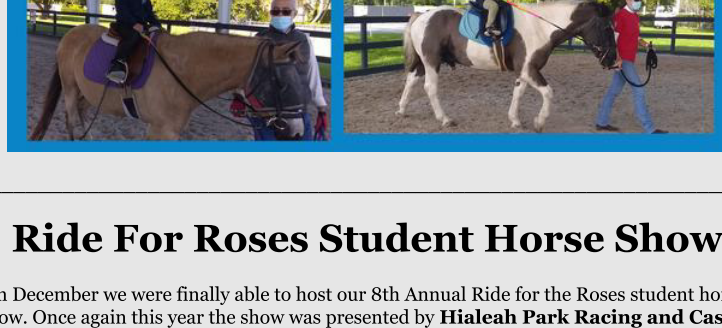
Infinite Horizons Learning Center and Unique Learning Center

In February, the **South Florida Trail Riders** held the annual Autism Ride. Funds raised by this ride go directly to provide therapeutic horseback riding and horsemanship lessons for Infinite Horizons Learning Center and Unique Learning Center. These two schools returned to the barn in September and the participants are having a great time!



Peter Pan Learning Center

The last school group to join the fall program is Peter Pan Learning Center. It has been a couple of years since we had the pleasure of working with Peter Pan's students but now they are back at the barn. Thanks to the **Batchelor Foundation** for providing the funds necessary for 10 students from this school to participate for 10 weeks in our program.



Ride For Roses Student Horse Show

In December we were finally able to host our 8th Annual Ride for the Roses student horse show. Once again this year the show was presented by **Hialeah Park Racing and Casino** and sponsored by **Publix**. Eleven riders participated in our 'drive-in' show. Parents and other guests were encouraged to watch from their cars parked along side of the arena. Riders and horses wore holiday attire and everyone had a great time. Volunteers brought the spectators cider and cookies to enjoy while they watched from a safe social distance.

Thank you to the sponsors, volunteers, riders and families who made this day so much fun.



Fall Fundraiser

In these days of Coronavirus, creativity is everything. When Brody Lim and Sidney Dare and their moms Silvina and Paula approached with the idea to do a virtual Walk, Run, Ride or Roll Fundraiser we thought it was a great idea. Within a few weeks, they got the word out and created teams that raised over \$2,500. We plan to make this annual event! Thank you Brody and Sidney for coming up with this fun idea and for supporting the riders and horses at Whispering Manes.



We couldn't gather at the barn this year, so Shoe Fairies went virtual. Thirteen awesome vendors donated a percentage of their weekend proceeds to Whispering Manes. Thank you to the Shoe Fairies committee, Helen Picard, Jill Fitzgerald, Amanda Altman, Nancy Anderson, Sheila Brewer, Lisa Chin, Carla Crossno, Anna Feiler, Michelle Haast, Annette Lopez and Mimi Shafey for organizing this fantastic fundraising event. Of course this was all made possible by through the support of these great vendors, Thank YOU!



Congratulations Volunteer of The Quarter!

Thank you Kelly Tinny Johnson for all your dedication!

Kelly has been volunteering at the barn for 4 years. Every Saturday afternoon Kelly ensures that the horses get their dinner, and on Sunday mornings Kelly is back at the barn doing the morning feeding and chores. Kelly is so enthusiastic about our program that she is always recruiting new volunteers and she even gets her whole family involved. Son Andrew and husband John are often at the barn helping as well. We are grateful for all your efforts!

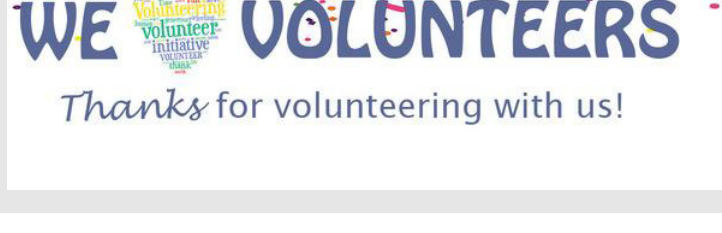


Congratulations Kelly!

Do you know someone who has been an extraordinary volunteer at Whispering Manes? Please let us know so that we can spotlight them in a future newsletter. We can't do the work we do without the help of volunteers so we want to make sure we are always showing our appreciation.

Volunteer Message

We want to thank everyone who has been coming out to the barn over the years. We are opening slowly and hope to be able start our volunteer program again soon. Please continue to watch your email for messages of when we will need your help again. Until then stay safe!



Want To Become More Involved With Whispering Manes?

There's a lot of excitement around the barn: new horses, new programs on and off property (on hiatus at the moment), and new community connections all to benefit people who need the curious, engaging, and entertaining relationship that can be developed with a horse.

Do you want to become more involved? There are many ways you can do that-- become a volunteer, help create a connection with someone in the community who might benefit from equine assisted activities, or become a donor to help support the good work we are doing everyday.

Your time, your talents, or your financial gift, will help us continue to offer high quality programming for people in our community who are most in need of assistance. If you would like to learn more about how to become a volunteer or to schedule a tour please visit our website www.whisperingmanes.org or [click here](#) to send us an email.



Click here to shop Amazon now!



Calling all volunteers!

Are you, or do you know anyone who is interested volunteering in classes or around the barn? Be a friend, share our contact information!

Tel: 305-596-4204



Web: www.whisperingmanes.org
Email: info@whisperingmanes.org